



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- Media Advisory - Wednesday April 23, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety as part of IIMPACT arrests 3 Human Smugglers in West Phoenix Drop House

On April 23, 2008 at 8:30am a neighbor called Phoenix Police to report suspicious activity at a home at 8473 W. Sells Drive. When Officers arrived they asked to check inside the house and found a total of 17 UDA's (undocumented Aliens).

IIMPACT Detectives responded to the scene. IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention and Apprehension Co-op) includes the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Phoenix Police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force (AFIT).

Detectives identified three "coyotes" or human smugglers. They were charged with conspiracy to commit human smuggling. A total of 14 UDA's were being held inside the house against their will. Several had been there as long as two weeks. Many had been beaten while smugglers made ransom demands to their relatives.

ICE agents arrived on scene and took custody of 14 UDA's all men with one male juvenile.

IIMPACT's goal is to utilize innovative and strategic investigative methods to deter, disrupt, and dismantle violent criminal organizations engaged in human smuggling activities in the greater Phoenix and Maricopa County areas.

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov